

rEcovery Project Idea Themes

The following are the themes that have emerged from over 250 individual project ideas collected thus far from community members and stakeholders interested in the recovery process of Ellicott City. This growing list has been distilled into themes that were repeated by multiple individuals to create a general picture of the types of ideas already put forward. The feasibility of individual project ideas will be evaluated and projects will be considered both for implementation in the short term or as part of the Master Plan process. The full list of ideas will be published on the Ellicott City Flood Recovery website.



Rebuilding/Infrastructure

- **Parking areas:** Eliminate parking on Main St., establish loading and unloading areas and increase structured or improve existing surface parking with stormwater retention and green infrastructure.
- **Sidewalks:** Widen and improve sidewalks, add crosswalks and create a safe and attractive environment for pedestrians/tourists.
- **Utilities:** Increase water/sewer capacity, relocate power and communication lines underground.
- **Retention:** Construct retention areas on public and private property throughout the Tiber Hudson and Plum Tree Branch watershed.
- **Building floodproofing:** Implement best floodproofing practices in renovations and construction efforts, such as building elevation and use of flood resistant materials.
- **Public amenities:** Construct public amenities such as additional outdoor seating, river promenade and restroom facilities.
- **Channel improvements:** Increase/improve stormwater conveyance throughout Tiber Hudson and Valley Mede watersheds. Construct new storm drains as well as expand and maintain existing storm drains. Provide more access points to streams. Redirect waterways.
- **Transit:** Provide bus or trolley transit services on Main Street.
- **Streets:** Create a more pedestrian and bicycle-friendly environment and reduce vehicular traffic speeds.
- **Flood gate:** Construct a flood gate/dam/fence to protect Ellicott City from Patapsco River overflow.



Environment

- **Native planting:** Remove invasive plant species and replace with native plants and trees.
- **Adding and improving open space:** Reduce soil erosion, preserve natural floodplain and wetland functions, increase exposure of streams where possible.
- **Stormwater management:** Establish accurate baseline data in order to properly retrofit properties with stormwater management.
- **Environmental education:** Increase public awareness of flood mitigation tactics and flood preparedness.



Economy

- **Business preparedness:** Ensure businesses are aware of how to protect their property most effectively and have taken necessary precautions to prepare for hazards such as flood insurance policies.
- **Public access to historic sites:** Provide tours and expand programs and hours of operation.
- **Small business assistance:** Increase awareness of ongoing funding needs, provide central location for information on resources and support small and growing businesses.
- **Marketing and branding of Main Street:** Explore unique events that will draw visitors to Ellicott City, create tourism opportunities and advertise amenities and services offered by small businesses.
- **Arts and entertainment district:** Acquire the Ellicott City Theater or other property to serve as a center for performing and visual arts, install rotating art exhibits.
- **Expand mixed use development:** Increase commercial activity by attracting mixed use development.



Preservation

- **Historically appropriate restoration and rehabilitation:** Façade and building improvements that reflect the historic legacy of Ellicott City.
- **Historical education:** Provide informational and wayfinding signs in order to assist in educating visitors about the history of Ellicott City.
- **Historic building maintenance:** Require upkeep and maintenance of historic properties and grounds.
- **Historic property database:** Create an inventory of historic properties with information such as level of flood vulnerability. The database would prioritize properties and provide immediate information in the case of an emergency.
- **Funding:** Create a revolving loan fund reserved for approved restoration projects on historic properties



Other

- **Community engagement:** Establish connections between community members that strengthen, heal and renew the community spirit.
- **Public safety:** Create outreach program to educate community on emergency preparedness; install alert system to provide early warning of hazards.
- **Regulatory measures:** Add/enhance tax credits within Ellicott City, create specific development regulations for Tiber Hudson watershed and streamline historic preservation approval process.
- **Expand County staff:** Hire dedicated personnel to oversee watershed and manage flood mitigation issues.
- **Flood insurance:** Ensure that businesses, residents and property owners are properly insured to prevent losses due to flooding.